



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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IN REPLY PLEASE
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February 5, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes
Director of Public Works

WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT

Last October, the Executive Officer of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) met with my staff to discuss entering into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with Public Works to create a new "joint powers" public agency to pursue projects of mutual interest. Since then, we have been working with our County Counsel and the State Attorney General's Office to develop the agreement. On January 10, 2003, the RMC Board authorized a JPA between the RMC and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.

The JPA will facilitate delivery of a comprehensive program to improve open space and recreational opportunities for conservation, restoration, and environmental enhancement of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers watershed area consistent with the goals of flood protection, water supply, groundwater recharge, and water conservation. The JPA also contemplates acquisition and protection of lands for watershed protection, conservation, natural open space, and recreational purposes. This program is consistent with the RMC's San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan approved by your Board on May 14, 2002. This program will also allow the RMC to fund projects identified in the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Master Plans. This collaborative effort should foster partnerships needed to manage the maintenance, security, and liability aspects associated with implementing projects.

It is proposed that the Governing Board consist of four members of the the RMC Board and four members of the Board of Supervisors or their designees. The Director of Public Works would serve as a nonvoting ex-officio member of the Governing Board.

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Before requesting your Board to approve the JPA, we would like to meet with your offices individually to discuss this matter in detail and answer any questions you may have. We will contact your staff to schedule the meeting dates. If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Don Wolfe, Assistant Director, at (626) 458-4014.

TSS:sv

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cc: Chief Administrative Office
Executive Office